

## MISCELLANEOUS.

A number of thunderstorms were reported at various places in the district during the month, chiefly at the culmination of the periods of warm weather mentioned above. Sleet occurred in scattered localities south of the upper Lakes on the 12th, 27th, and 29th, and at a few points elsewhere on other dates.

*Weather in New York.*—The unusual weather in the eastern portion of the district is summarized by Mr. W. M. Wilson, Section Director at Ithaca, N. Y., as follows:

The month of March, 1911, was remarkable for its unusually cold weather and heavy snowfall. Since 1900, only one March, that of 1906, has shown a lower average temperature. The memory of March, 1910, being still fresh in the minds of the populace, the character of the month just closed has seemed to be unusually severe. The average temperature was more than 10° lower than that of the same month last year, while cold waves and snowstorms occurred with such frequency and severity as to be decidedly characteristic of midwinter.

The average temperature for the section was 27.4°, which is 2.5° less than the normal, and varied locally from 18.8° at Lake Placid Club, in the Adirondack region, to 31.8° at Hunt, in the central part of western New York. The highest temperature reported for the section was 68° at Otto on the 27th, but at more than half the stations the highest temperature for the month was below 60°. Temperatures higher than 68° have been recorded in the section in 5 of the last 11 years, but the number of warm days in March this year was unusually small. On the other hand, there were frequent cold spells of more than ordinary severity. In practically all of the Adirondack region there were 10 days or more with temperatures below zero and from 5 to 8 days with temperatures of -10° or below. The lowest temperature recorded during the month was -28° at Nehasane on the 7th, which is within 1° of the lowest temperature record for March since the establishment of the State Weather Service in 1889.

The snowfall for the section averaged 17.4 inches and was the heaviest for any March since 1900. In 1906 the average was 16.6 inches. The amount of snow on the ground during the month was unusually great, especially in the northern counties where the deficiency in temperature had been greatest.

At the end of the month cold weather still prevailed, the ground was generally frozen, and there had been no noticeable growth of grass, swelling of buds, or other evidences of spring.

## A CARELESS STATEMENT.

J. WARREN SMITH, Section Director.

On page 28 in *Climate and Meteorology of Australia*, by H. A. Hunt, the following words appear:

In Michigan, United States of America, where half a century ago peach trees flourished and were rarely injured by the cold, the crops have now nearly disappeared, owing to the removal by timbermen of the shelter afforded by the forests. In northern Kansas, too, from the same cause, the growing of peaches has been largely abandoned.

With even a superficial knowledge of past and present conditions in Kansas it is evident that the above is wide of the truth in that State at least. Hence letters of inquiry were sent both States, and the replies are so interesting and are so contradictory to the sweeping statement made by Mr. Hunt that they are quoted below in full:

*H. J. Eustace, division of horticulture, Michigan Agricultural College Experiment Station, East Lansing, Mich., February 21, 1911.*—It is true that peaches are not so extensively raised in the southern part of Michigan as they were some 25 years ago, but the reason is not the one that is given in the quotation in your letter, by any means. The real reason is soil exhaustion, the coming of serious diseases like the peach yellows and little peach, and the spread of the San Jose scale.

The old peach orchardists who could produce a crop in a very easy way are not willing to give them the care and attention now necessary to produce a crop. However, there are many cases where the proper attention to all of the details of the peach production are given, and the reward is a fine crop, just as fine as was ever obtained.

*Walter Wellhouse, secretary Kansas State Horticultural Society, Topeka, Kans., February 20, 1911.*—Your letter to Mr. Coburn, in regard to peach growing in northern Kansas, was handed this department for reply.

In order to give you an idea of the extent to which peaches are grown in northern Kansas, we present a statement of the number of bearing peach trees now growing in some of the northern counties, as follows: Atchison, 43,327; Brown, 57,876; Clay, 48,124; Cloud, 63,027; Doniphan, 58,541; Jackson, 56,151; Jewell, 221,269; Marshall, 81,487; Nemaha, 71,124; Pottawatomie, 40,158; Washington, 93,128; total, 884,222 peach trees.

Forests have not been extensively cut in northern Kansas, in the recollection of its oldest inhabitants, because no such forests existed. There are many more trees now growing in this part of our State than were there 50 years ago—the result of plantings of the inhabitants. Mr. Hunt is certainly mistaken in his statement as regards peach growing in northern Kansas.

Mr. Hunt undoubtedly quoted some magazine or newspaper statement without taking the trouble to verify it. Unfortunately, too many arguments and illustrations for the preservation of our forests are based on just such inaccurate assumptions.